



Ride of Silence Chicago

May 19, 2021

A virtual visit to crash sites from the
past year

HISTORY

- 2003 (Dallas, TX)
 - May 4: Larry Schwartz killed while riding his bike
 - May 21: Ride of Silence around White Rock Lake in honor of Larry
 - 1,000 cyclists gathered
 - *“Life will never be the same.”*
- 2004:
 - 50 Rides of Silence had sprung up from Hawaii to Montreal.
- **2005:**
 - **120 Rides of Silence**
 - **Chicago joins the movement**
- 2006:
 - 220+ Rides of Silence
- **PRESENT DAY: 400+** Rides of Silence annually on every continent

The **Ride of Silence** is a free ride that asks its cyclists to ride no faster than 12 mph, wear helmets, follow the rules of the road and remain silent during the ride. There are no registration fees. The ride, which is held during [National Bike Month](#), aims to raise the awareness of motorists, police and city officials that cyclists have a legal right to the public roadways. The ride is also a chance to show respect for and honor the lives of those who have been killed or injured.

The Ride of Silence is always the third Wednesday evening in May.

The Ride of Silence...

Tonight we number many but ride as one
In honor of those not with us, friends, mothers, fathers, sisters,
sons
With helmets on tight and heads down low,
We ride in silence, cautious and slow
The wheels start spinning in the lead pack
But tonight we ride and no one attacks
The dark sunglasses cover our tears
Remembering those we held so dear
Tonight's ride is to make others aware
The road is there for all to share
To those not with us or by our side,
May God be your partner on your final ride

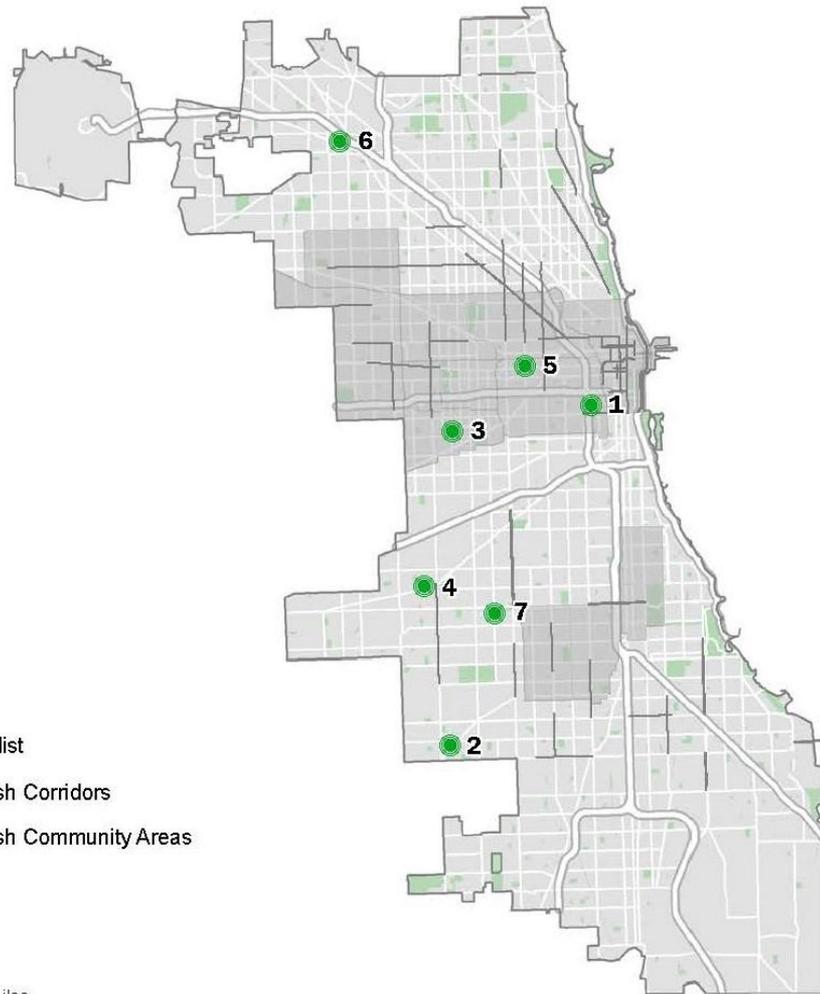
- Mike Murgas

http://www.rideofsilence.org/ros_poem.htm

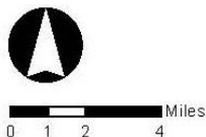
Traffic Crash Cyclist Fatalities in the City of Chicago

May 1, 2020 - Apr 30, 2021

Map Key	Crash Date	Crash Time	Crash Location
1	5/20/2020	7:47 AM	653 W TAYLOR ST
2	6/28/2020	6:49 PM	8310 S LAWNSDALE AVE
3	7/13/2020	2:21 AM	1502 S CENTRAL PARK AVE
4	8/21/2020	6:00 PM	5170 S ARCHER AVE
5	9/9/2020	7:50 AM	2000 W WARREN
6	10/23/2020	1:09 PM	6202 W HIGGINS AVE
7	12/19/2020	10:50 PM	5620 S CALIFORNIA AVE



-  Pedalcyclist
-  High Crash Corridors
-  High Crash Community Areas



Andrew Peterson

May 20, 2020 (age 37)

Peterson was biking east on Taylor Street, crossing Ruble Street, an access road to the Dan Ryan Expressway, at around 7:45 a.m. on Wednesday, May 20, when a northbound Volkswagen driver struck him.



Andrew Peterson

The driver, a 27-year-old man, was ticketed for failure to reduce speed to avoid a crash, according to police.



Louis Jacobson

June 18, 2020 (age 67)

On Thursday, June 18, at about 8 a.m., Jacobson, who worked at Recycle Plus, was bicycling south on the 6400 block of North Western Avenue when he hit a pothole and was thrown from his bike into the street, hitting his head on the pavement, and was found lying unresponsive next to his bike. It is believed he was wearing a helmet.



Source: <https://chi.streetsblog.org/2020/07/09/louis-jacobson-67-died-after-reportedly-hitting-pothole-on-bike-in-west-ridge/>

Louis Jacobson

Jacobson had been riding on the sidewalk (adjacent to Devon Bank) of the busy four-lane avenue when he entered the street because one of the bank's maintenance workers was on the sidewalk watering the parkway with a hose.

The pothole that Jacobson hit was reportedly patched by a city crew within a few hours of the incident.

Issac Martinez

June 28, 2020 (age 13)

On the Sunday evening of June 28th, a hit-and-run driver struck and killed 13-year-old Issac Martinez on his bike in the Southwest Side Ashburn neighborhood and then fled the scene. The crash happened just before 7pm when the driver of a Ford work van also heading south struck Martinez from behind and failed to stop and render aid.



Source

<https://cni.streetsblog.org/2020/06/29/isaac-martinez-13-killed-in-ashburn-is-2nd-chicago-cyclist-critically-or-fatally-injured-in-a-week/>

Issac Martinez

Over the following two evenings Bike Lane Uprising hosted human-protected bike lane vigils to honor Issac Martinez at the corner of Columbus and Lawndale avenues, near the site of the 83rd Street crash site.



Walter M. Williams

July 13 2020 (age 72)

A car driver fatally struck Walter M. Williams, 72, on his bike at 2:20 am on Monday, July 13, in North Lawndale and fled the scene.



Walter M. Williams

Williams was cycling in the 1500 block of South Central Park Avenue when the driver of a white car struck him. Central Park has non-protected bike lanes on this stretch.

Williams lived a block east of the crash site.



Image: Google Maps

Mark Goodman

August 18, 2020 (age 56)

56-year-old Mark Goodman died on Tuesday, August 18, following a Saturday, August 1, bike crash on the Lakefront Trail with another cyclist, [the Sun-Times' David Struett reported](#).



Mark Goodman

At around 2:30 p.m. Goodman, who lived in Portage Park, was biking south on the shoreline path in the 3100 block of Belmont Harbor Access Road, just south of Belmont Avenue, when he collided head-on with the other cyclist, suffering a brain injury, the Sun-Times reported. Goodman was rendered unable to speak. He died of complications from the crash at Illinois Masonic Medical Center, according to the Cook County medical examiner's office.



Jan Kopec

August 21, 2020 (age 83)

On Friday, August 21, a driver struck and killed 83-year-old Jan Kopec as he rode his bike in the Archer Heights neighborhood on the Southwest Side.



Jan Kopec

According to police, on Friday at about 6 p.m. Kopec was cycling north on Kostner Avenue crossing Archer Avenue. Mario Aguilar, 56, was driving a 2006 Ford truck south on Kostner when he attempted to make a left turn onto Archer and failed to yield to Kopec, striking him. Kopec, who lived in the neighborhood, was pronounced dead at the scene. Aguilar was charged with a felony for driving with a revoked/suspended license.



Andrew Ryan Biesen

September 9, 2020 (age 28)

On the morning of September 9, a driver fatally struck a Andrew Ryan Biesen, 28, of Highland, IN. He was riding one of the new electric-assist Divvy bikes at Warren Boulevard and Damen Avenue near the United Center on the Near West Side.



Andrew Ryan Biesen

Biesen was riding south on Damen when the eastbound motorist hit him, according to police. “The [driver] went through a yellow light and couldn’t stop in time due to water on the street causing him to hit the bicyclist,” police said.



Czeslaw Kosma

October 3, 2020 (age 78)

Czeslaw Kosma, 78, fatally struck on his bike on the afternoon of Friday, October 23, in Jefferson Park. He lived near the crash site.



Source: <https://chi.streetsblog.org/2020/10/26/driver-fatally-struck-czeslaw-kosma-78-on-his-bicycle-in-jefferson-park/>

Czeslaw Kosma

At about 1:10 PM, Kosma was cycling on the 6200 block of West Higgins Avenue, reportedly against traffic, police said. The autopsy reports that Kosma died of head injuries and rules that the death was accidental.

According to police, the westbound driver of a 2005 Nissan Pathfinder SUV struck Kosma. The motorist, a 39-year-old woman, then lost control and struck a nearby metal fence. The driver, who stayed at the scene, was ticketed for failure to reduce speed to prevent a crash, and no proof of insurance.



Demetrio Macias

December 27, 2020 (age 47)

Demetrio Ruiz Macias, 47, who was struck on his bike by a hit-and-run driver on December 19 in Gage Park, died from his injuries on Sunday, December 27. He was one of three vulnerable road users killed by hit-and-run motorists in the Southwest Side neighborhood just days apart.



Demetrio Macias

According to the Chicago Police Department, on Saturday, December 19, at about 10:50 p.m., Macias was cycling on the 5600 block of South California Avenue. A southbound driver struck him and fled in an unknown direction.

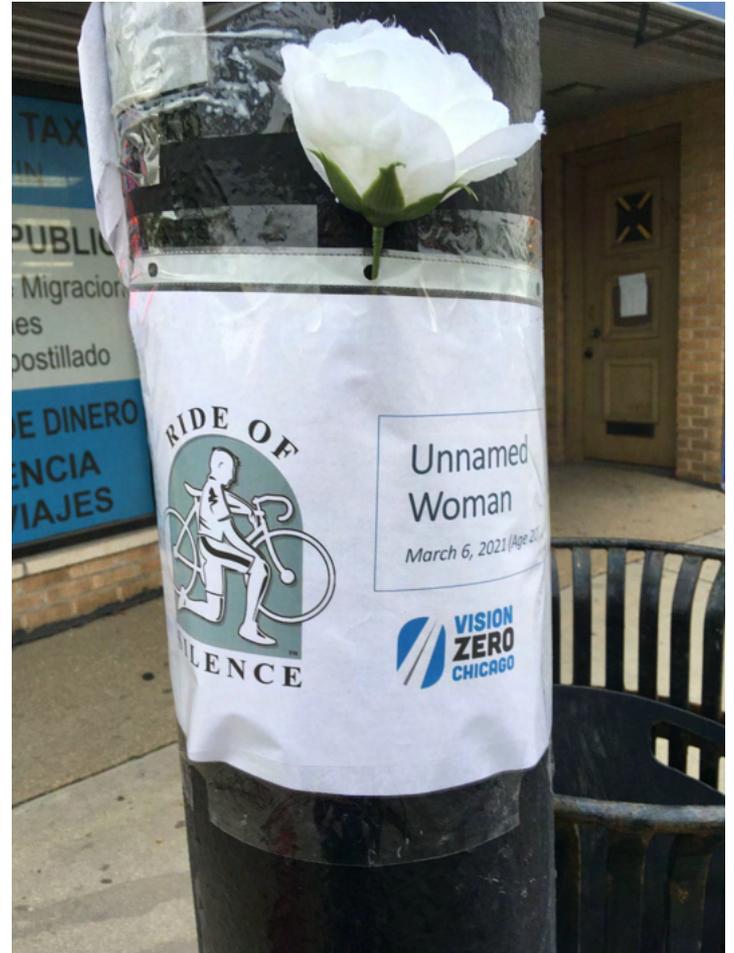
He died from his injuries the following Sunday, and his death was ruled accidental, according to the Cook County medical examiner's office.



Unnamed Woman

March 6, 2021 (age 20)

On the afternoon of Saturday, March 6, a motorist struck and killed a woman on a bike in the West Lawn community on the Southwest Side. The victim was the first person killed while biking on Chicago streets in the 2021 calendar year.



Unnamed Woman

At about 5 p.m., a 20-year-old woman was driving west on 61st Street made a right turn to head north on Pulaski Road when she struck the victim, police said.

The driver was cited for operating without a license or insurance; failure to reduce speed, and failure to exercise due care for a person in the roadway, police said.



We Remember...

2020

Unnamed Man, 2/29/20 (age 61)

2019

Douglas DeMott, 1/24/19 (age 52)

Richard William, 9/1/19 (age 57)

Vincent Tran, 10/20/19 (age 27)

Carla Aiello, 11/6/19 (age 38)

Lee Luellen, 11/17/19 (age 40)

2018

Raul Ortiz-Gomez, 6/13/18 (age 41)

Luster Jackson, 7/28/18 (age 58)

Angela Park, 8/9/18 (age 39)

Jimmy Lesper, 8/23/18 (age 42)

Jesse Rodriguez, 9/23/18 (age 67)

We Remember...

2017

Jezniah “Jay” Smith, 1/11/17 (age 34)

Louis Ray Smith, 6/5/17 (age 56)

Lisa Marie Schalk, 11/1/17 (age 50)

2016

Brian Schader, 6/3/16 (age 13)

Blaine Klingenberg, 6/15/16 (age 29)

Virginia “Ginny” Murray, 7/1/16 (age 25)

Lisa Kuivinen, 8/16/16 (age 20)

Chuyuan Qiu, 9/22/16 (age 18)

Anastasia Kondrasheva, 9/26/16 (age 23)

2014

Joseph “Jay” Korner, 11/6/14 (age 78)

We Remember...

2013

Robert “Bobby” Cann, 5/29/13 (age 26)

Hector Avalos, 12/6/13 (age 28)

2012

Neill Townsend, 10/5/12 (age 32)

2011

Dion Harris, 5/8/11 (age 16)

Jacqueline Michon, 8/11/11 (age 25)

Frederick “Dad” Kabriek, 8/23/11 (age 30)

2009

Liza Whitacre, 10/21/09 (age 20)

Jepson Livingston, 12/15/09 (age 32)

We Remember...

2008

Tyler Fabeck, 4/20/08 (age 22)

Amanda “Mandy” Annis, 4/30/08 (age 24)

Clinton Miceli, 9/6/08 (age 22)

2007

Ryan Boudreau, 8/13/07 (age 49)

Blanca Ocasio, 9/11/07 (age 19)

2006

Isai Medina, 1/5/06 (age 50)

George Chavez, 6/26/06 (age 42)

2005

Alicia Frantz, 6/3/05 (age 32)

We Remember...

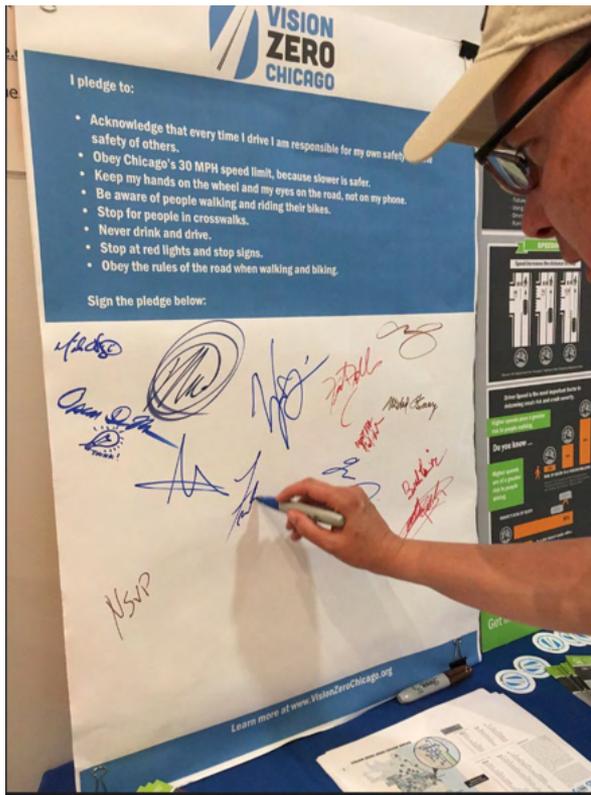
2003

Rob Heinbockel, 7/9/03 (age 49)

1989

Patrick Thomas Stack, 7/24/89 (age 26)





We continue to partner with Chicago's Vision Zero
 Vision Zero pledge at the 2018 Ride of Silence

- Arlington Heights
- Aurora
- Bartlett
- Batavia
- Bloomington-Normal
- Byron
- Champaign-Urbana
- Charleston
- Chicago
- Countryside
- Crystal Lake/Woodstock, McHenry County
- DeKalb
- Downers Grove
- Dunlap
- Elgin
- Elk Grove Village
- Elmhurst
- Evanston
- Fairview Heights
- Fox Lake
- Frankfort
- Geneva

- Jacksonville
- Joliet
- Knox County
- Libertyville
- Lombard
- McLean Co.
- Moline/Rock Island (Quad Cities)
- Mt. Vernon
- Mundelein
- O'Fallon
- Oak Lawn
- Oak Park
- Ottawa
- Pekin
- Peoria
- Quincy
- Rockford
- Schaumburg
- Springfield
- St. Charles
- Tremont
- Wheaton
- Winfield

The Ride of Silence in 2020/21...

SHOW UP! - VIRTUALLY &/OR IN-PERSON

Join fellow IL cyclists in this global cycling event -- silent yet unified to ...

- promote public cycling awareness
- honor those who have been killed or injured while riding

The Ride of Silence serves as a rally that advocates for the living friends and family of victims, as well as a celebration of those who incorporate the bicycle into their lifestyle. We ride slowly and silently in hope to end the tragedy on our roads.

All are welcome.

**#rideofsilence #wdor #rideofsilencechicago #rideofsilence2021 #visionzero
#speedkills #roadsafety #ghostbikes**

POST-EVENT - MORE...

- We will submit a Ride Report for tonight's virtual event on the RideOfSilence.org website
- Power in numbers and continued outreach
- Tag photos / strava route of riding
- Ride your own ride / visit crash site locations
- Share on social media, downloadable visual to share with photos
- Yard Signs

#rideofsilence

#wdor

#rideofsilencechicago

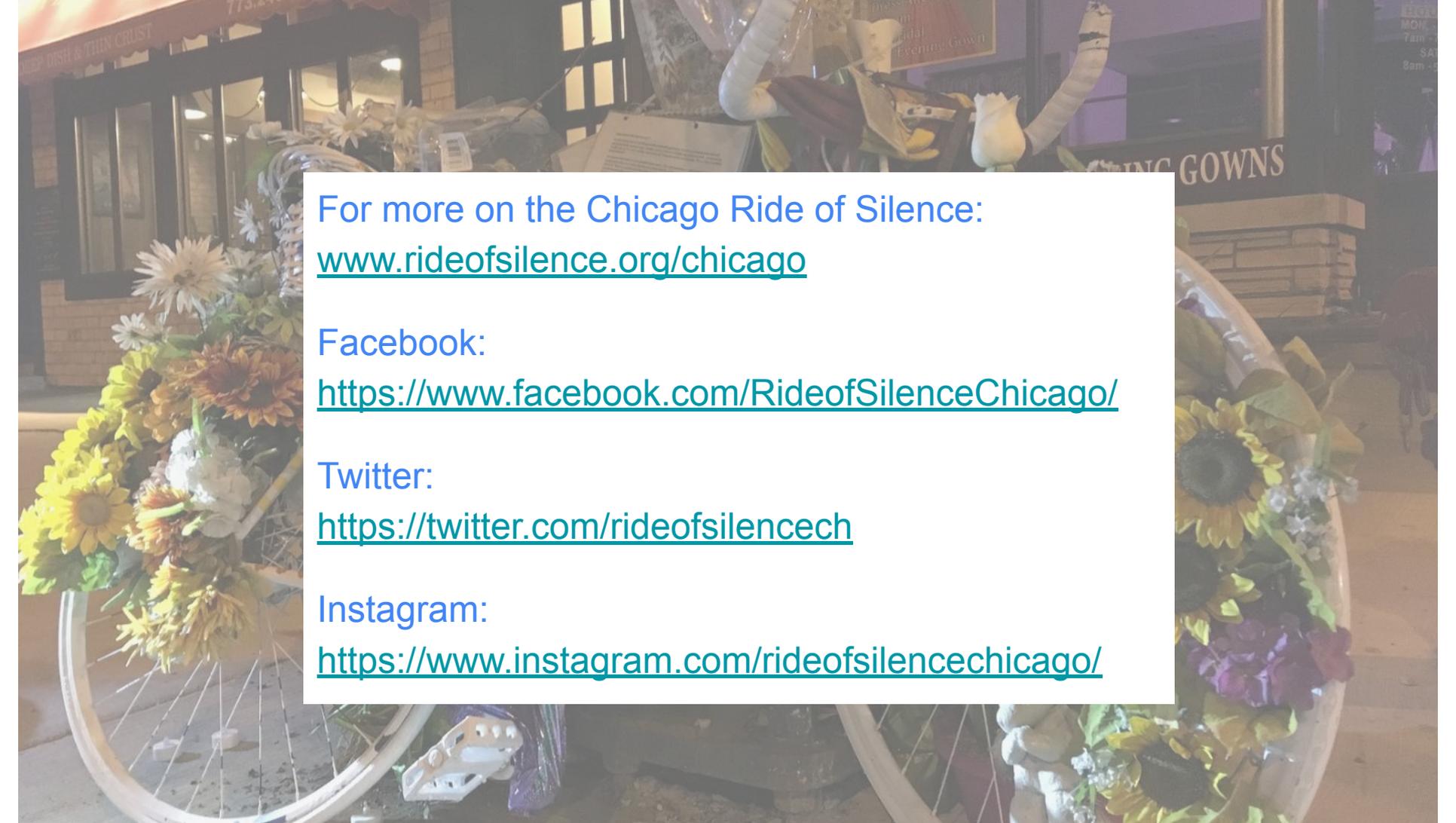
#rideofsilence2021

#visionzero

#speedkills

#roadsafety

#ghostbikes



For more on the Chicago Ride of Silence:

www.rideofsilence.org/chicago

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/RideofSilenceChicago/>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/rideofsilencech>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/rideofsilencechicago/>

Thank you!

CDOT and Vision Zero Team

Photos and planning:
Anne Alt and Tom Limon

Site photos:
David Pertuz
Phyllis Dickstein
Rebecca Tung
Cathy Haibach

And the Chicago Cycling community!

SAVE THE DATE:

May 18, 2022

(always the 3rd Wednesday in May)

rideofsilence.chicago@gmail.com

Poll Questions

- Have you (personally) attended a Ride of Silence event in the past?
- Have you known anyone who died in a crash with a vehicle?
- Are you the survivor of a crash with a vehicle?